

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1146

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1146

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF BRITISH TUC
DELEGATION REPORT.

REF: JOHANNESBURG 995

1. JOHANNESBURG ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS CARRIES FRONT PAGE
NEWS STORIES AND LEAD EDITORIALS OVER WEEKEND ON JUST-RELEASED
REPORT OF BRITISH TUC DELEGATION WHICH MADE TWO-WEEK VISIT TO
SOUTH AFRICA IN OCTOBER (REFTEL). NEWS STORIES DREW PARTICULAR
ATTENTION TO REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS THAT: (A) TUC AND ICFTU
JOIN IN SPONSORING AND FINANCING TO INITIAL TUNE OF R175,000 A
"FOCAL POINT" (NATURE AND LOCATION UNSPECIFIED) FOR EFFORTS TO
ORGANIZE SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK WORKERS ON "MASSIVE SCALE"; (B)
TUC OPPOSE FURTHER BRITISH INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA UNLESS
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FIRMS AGREE TO ENCOURAGE AND DEAL WITH BLACK TRADE UNIONS AND
(C) TUC DISCOURAGE FURTHER EMIGRATION OF WHITE WORKERS TO SOUTH

AFRICA. NEWS STORIES ALSO NOTED THAT REPORT CRITICIZED NOT ONLY EMPLOYERS (AS EXPECTED) FOR FAILING TO HELP BLACK TRADE UNIONS BUT TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (TUCSA)--DELEGATION'S SOUTH AFRICAN HOST--AS WELL.

2. FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL IN DECEMBER 15 RAND DAILY MAIL NOTED IRONY OF DELEGATION ISSUING REPORT CALLING ON TUC AND OTHERS TO INTERFERE IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AT VERY MOMENT BRITAIN WAS "BEING BROUGHT TO THE BRINK OF DISASTER BY THE UNIONS." EDITORIAL WENT ON TO EXPRESS HOPE NEVERTHELESS THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT JUMP TO UNWARRANTED CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHAT TUC DELEGATION HAD IN MIND ON BASIS OF FIRST IMPRESSIONS SINCE IT HAD NEED OF WHAT TUC HAD TO OFFER ON BOTH HOME AND INTERNATIONAL FRONTS. SOME OBSERVERS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT, DESPITE DOMESTIC INTERFERENCE ASPECT OF REPORT, NATURE AND SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM IS SUCH THAT SAG FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION OF CONTENTS WILL SEE WISDOM OF WORKING OUT SOME SORT OF MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE MODUS OPERANDI WITH TUC.
FOLEY

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